PUBLIC SERVICE

Oversight of Corporations Discharging Public Functions the Commission's Chief Duty.

THE CHARTER COMPANIES

Mr. Braxton, in An Able Paper, Points Out That These Have Little to Do With Public.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—Lest lack of public information as to the affairs of the Corporation Commission result in not only giving aid and comfort to the enemies of that institution, but in turning upon it the guns of its own friends, I venture, without the request, or, so far as I know, even the knowledge of any member of the commission, to call attention to some matters pertaining to recent occurrences, which the public either does not know or else has apparently overlooked.

Before proceeding, I will state that I

the public either does not know or else has apparently overlooked.

Before proceeding, I will state that I have no relationship nor connection with the chairman of the commission, and was not responsible in any way for his appointment, and that I have not, and never had, the remotest connection with the Virginia Corporation Company, Incorporated, nor with any similar company; nor do I expect to have. I only desire, so far as I can, to put an exciting and much misunderstood question correctly before the people of the State.

In speaking of the commission's connection with corporations, it is common

orrectly before the people of the State. In speaking of the commission's connection with, corporations, it is common to overlook the very important difference between "public service" corporations and "private" corporations—such as railroads, telegraph companies, etc.—are. engaged in the exercise of public franchises, a business which no private individual, as such, may lawfully engage in. Private corporations—such as manufacturing and mercantile companies, and other ordinary business corporations—are only engaged in such business as any private citizen may engage in. The abuses, by which the public is generally exploited and oppressed, are practically limited to public service corporations, and, as a rule, private corporations, and as a rule, private corporations, are interested in the same manner and degree as individuals, in seeing that public service corporations are effectively controlled and regulated by the State.

State. While the PRIVATE corporations of the State and those doing business here need attention of a certain sort, the functions of our government. In that respect, are few and simple. These functions could readily have been imposed upon the office of auditor or geasurer or Secretary of the Commonwealth; but, partly for economy, and partly in order to concentrate our corporation affairs in one department, they were, by our Secretary of the Commonwealth; but, partly for economy, and partly in order to concentrate our corporation affairs in one department, they were, by our present Constitution, imposed upon the railroad commission, which, for that reason, was called the "Corporation" Commission. In many, if not in all, the other States, I believe that the private corporations are looked after by entirely, different commissions, or sovernmental agencies. The regulation and control of PUBLIC SERVICE corporations; however, is a very different matter, and is, by far, the most intricate, difficult and delicate function which the State has to perform. Upon its efficient execution, the material welfare of the people depends to an incalculable extent, No agency of government, prior to the creation of our present Corporation Commission, had machinery adequate for the performance of this novel and most important function; and it was for this work particularly—the regulation of "public service," not "private," corporations—that our Corporation Commission was established. This commission is the only body in the State equipped with the necessary machinery for handling PUBLIC SERVICE corporations.

Public Service Corporation.

Thus, it will be seen, that the peculiar field for the labors of the Corporation Commission is that of reguleging the PUBLIC SERVICE corporations, and in this the public is infinitely more interested than in the commission's performance of its (almost purely clerical) dutles relative to PRIVATE corporations. relative to PRIVATE corporations.

These things are doubtless known

These things are doubless known to most men, and yet they are apparently overlooked by many, who are criticising recent occurrences in the commission's office, as if they affected its duties in the regulation of PUBLIC SERVICE corporations, when, at most, those occurrences concern only the commission's ministerial functions in connection with PRIVATE corporations—a minor matter, in the great purposes for which the commission was created.

In the matter of regulating PUBLIC

In the matter of regulating PUBLIC SERVICE corporations, the commission is largely clothed with the joint powers of a legislature, a court and an executive department. Its functions are to assess, the property of such corporations for taxation, to make rates, classifications of traffic, rules and regulations for such corporations, to inquire into and

for taxation, to make race, classified tons of traffic, rules and regulations for such ecorporations, to inquire into and punish any violations of such rules and regulations, and to supervise and regulate the public service and facilities furnished by such companies.

Under these circumstances the ulter impropriety of any member of the commission owning stock in a PUBLIC SERVICE corporation is most obvious; the Constitution accordingly makes it illegal for him to do so; and, for the benefit of those whose information on the subject may not be accurate, I will here mention again the fact that the recent occurrences in the commission do not in anywise concern PUBLIC SERVICE corporations, and that no suspicion or suggestion has ever been suggested of any improper connection with, or interest in, any public, service corporation by any member of the commission.

suggestion has ever been suggested of any improper connection with, or interest in, any public service corporation by any member of the commission.

In the matter of private corporations, the commission's functions are different. Over such corporations the commission has absolutely no discretionary power, unless, possibly, in the immaterial matter of imposing a petty fine for delay in making annual reports. The commission is without legislative or judicial authority over private corporations, and its functions as regards such corporations are purely ministerial.

When a charter is desired, it is the General Assembly alone which prescribes by general laws how it must be applied for, how it must be issued, and exactly what kind of charter may be issued. The commission is made according to law. The commission is made according to law, and if it be, then the commission is suthorized merely to see that the application is made according to law. The commission is always to law, the commission is a purely ministerial capacity, clothed only with the power to see that the siatute has been compiled with.

A private corporation, having once been chartered, the commission, in the matter of issuing charters, has none of the discretionary powers formerly possessed by severy circuit and corporation court judge in the State, but acts in a purely ministerial capacity, clothed only with the power to see that the siatute has been compiled with.

A private corporation, having once been chartered, the commission is absolutely without authority or control over it, except to see that it makes the annual reports and pays the annual fees to the State, which the General Assembly by statute prescribes.

These reports do not (like those which the Federal government sometimes re-

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quires) cover private or confidential matters. They are required only for the purpose of supplying such information as the public is entitled to, and are required to be received, collated, classified and flied by the commission for the sole purpose of enabling the public to have access to them. Such reports are practically limited to such information as the basis of a stock issue, the amount of stock and bonds outstanding, the names and residences of the corporate officers and directors, etc. Thus it will be seen that the Virginia State Corporation Commission (unlike the Federal Department of Commerce and Labor) does not obtain possession of any "corporate secrets" upon which its members can "trade," if they would. All the knowledge they have is gathered for the information of the public, and amounts only to statistics gathered for the public.

The annual fees payable by private corporations are all fixed by the General Assembly, and cannot be increased, diminished or remitted by the commission where sole duty is to see that every coments mays them propmitly. They are not

Private Corporations.

Private Corporations.

Private Corporations.

But while the powers and duties of the commission in reference to private corporations are few and simple, they none the less entall a vast amount of work upon the commission, and result in bringing a large revenue, much of it never realized before the existence of the commission, into the State treasnry. Some idea of the extent of this work of the commission and its value to the State may be had when it is known that in the year ending December 31, 1904, there were 785 charters issued or amended, some three or four thousand private corporations registered and their various annual reports obtained, collected and filed, and some \$100,000 covered into the State treasury from fees of private corporations. It must be borne in mind, however, that this is the least difficult, laborious and important part of the commission's work, in that it omits entirely the regulation and control of PUBLIC SERVICE corporations, functions which are sufficient to engross (as it was intended and contemplated it should do) almost the entire personal services and attention of the commissioners.

Duties of Commission.

Duties of Commission.

and thus enabling them to practically devote all their time and personal labora-

and thus enabling them to practically devote all their time and personal laborate their nen-assignable and vastly more important and difficult duties in connection with the regulation of public service corporations functions in which, however, the commission also requires extensive circical aid.

It can truthrully be said that even the most intelligent portion of the gabile has but a very faint appreciation of the amount of labor and the extent of difficulties involved in the regulation of the public service corporations of the State. To say nothing of the telegraph and telephone companies, the steamboat and street car companies, the turnpife and trolley line commission has juriadiction, and considering only the steam realroad companies, of which there are about thirty-live operating about four thousand miles of road in this State, some idea of this work may be obtained, when it is remembered that the commissioners are charged with the personal performance

five railroads-under this head the commission has increased the aggregate as-sessment of railroad property in this State several million dollars.

State several million dollars.

3d. To prescribe rules and regulations for railroad companies in their dealings with the public. Under this head the commission has prescribed demurrage and switching service rules, which will save the shippers of Virginia thousands of dollars annually.

4th. To require railroads to adopt and observe such schedules and train service as may be adequate for the reasonable geeds and convenience of the public. In a brief article, it is impossible to specify the vast amount of improvements

In a brief article, it is impossible to specify the vast amount of improvements in the ralfoad service in different parts of the State which the commission has brought about in this line of its duties. 5th. The fixing of transportation rates and classification of traffic, and the prevention of illegal discrimination. This is truly a task requiring imposes. prevention of illegal discrimination. This is truly a task requiring immense labor and broad information. For months the commissioners have been laboring day and night on this great work. When I is known that, to say nothing of passenger rates, which they are revising, they have been personally revising, readjusting and reducing general freight rates covering nearly ten thousand items, and representing an annual saving of probably several hundred thousand dollars to the shippers of this State (a work now drawing near its completion), some idea may be formed of the extent and prospective value of the genmission's services in this one branch of their duties.

Their Work Well Done.

Their Work Well Done.

For their ability, fairness, industry and efficiency, the commissioners have already commended themselves most highly hostile or indifferent to the commission; but, it is believed that, with few exceptions, not even the friends of the commission have any realization of the magnitude and importance of the work that that able, faithful and patriotic body of men have already performed for the people of this State.

The clerical assistance necessary to enable the commission to efficiently perform all its functions, is perhaps as great as that of all the other State offices combined; and, by restricting the commission in this respect, its value to the people of Virginia is proportionately impaired.

Either through erroneous estimates of

impaired.

Either through erroneous estimates or mistaken economy, the appropriation made by the last Legislature for the expenses of the commission is not sufficient to enable it to carry on its work in its full efficiency; but, rather than allow the public interests to suffer, two of the commissioners have, at their own private expense, employed an expert rate clerk for the commission at a salary of some \$1,500 or \$1,500 per year.

The services of this extra clerk together with the voluntary assistance of persons interested in the commission's work, have enabled the commission to very effectively carry on, with the force which the State allows them, the great work of overhauling and readjusting the general railroad transportation rates of this State; but they have been greatly in need of additional clerical assistance, a lack, which it would seem, should not a lack, which it would seem, should not exist, in view of the fact that the public

exist, in view of the fact that the public revenue realized from the work of the commission is some seven or eight times the entire cost of the commission to the State.

Under the conditions above set forth, the commission has been for several months endeavoring so to arrange matters as to economize to the utmost the time and labor of its clerical force, in order to have as much of such force as

ters as to conomize to the utmost the time and labor of its elerical force, in order to have as much of such force as possible available for the business of regulating public service corporations. The present method of obtaining charters and amendments thereof, and the requirement of private corporations to make annual reports and pay annual fees, while long in yogue in the most advanced and prosperous States, is an entirely new thing in Virginia; and, though all these things are fully provided for by the public acts of the General Assembly, very few officers or managers of private corporations in Virginia are familiar with or understand what the legal requirements in such matters are. This ignorance on their part entails very great labor and much correspondence upon the commission, and its clerical force, in making explanations to such corporate managers and politing out to them mistakes in their applications and reports. Even when such managers are familiar with the law, they are constantly, through inadvertance, neglecting to make reports and to pay annual fees as the proper time. It may reasonably be estimated that, if all the private corporations would make out their applications properly, file their reports promptly and correctly, promptly pay all their annual dues; and cease to call on the commission for explanations and instructions about matters which any person, who would familiarize himself with the public statutes would know, the result would be a saving to the commis-

sion of work more than equivalent to that consuming the entire time of one clerk, whose services could then be utilized to replace those of the clerks which the commissioners have been obliged to employ at their private expense, and otherwise to aid in work connected with the regulation of public service corporations.

otherwise to aid in work connected with the regulation of public service corporations.

In all States where annual reports and fees are required of private corporations, and where a general incorporation law (such as we have in Virginla) obtains, it has long, I think always, been true that some individual attorneys, firms or business corporations have made a specialty of looking after, for private corporations generally, the mater of obtaining charters and amendments, and of making their annual reports, and paying the annual fees as required of them by law-ail of which matters, as above explained, are merely circial or ministerial, as far as concerns the commission, which, as above stated, has no discretionary power whistover in connection therewith.

The advantage of the work of a firm or corporation of this sort, as well to the State as to the private corporations generally, is considerable.

To private corporations generally such companies save the trouble and annoyance of making out the papers for applications for charters or amendments or annual reports and of properly filling them, and of checking the amounts of their annual rees, seeing to the payment of them and obtaining receipts for same, and also minimizes the risk of firms or other penalties upon their patrons for neglecting to file their reports or pay their fees in time—the charge for the service being generally small.

Beneficial to State.

Beneficial to State.

To the State the work of such companies is beneficial in several ways:
First.—By reason of the familiarity with the legal requirements in such matters, which any person making a specialty of twould soon acquire, few or no mistakes would be made in applications and reports submitted to the commesten through the agency of such a company, and few or no explanations of the law and directions as to procedure would be asked of the to procedure would be asked of the

Second.-Such companies would largely Second.—Such companies would largely relieve the commission from the great labor of sending admonitory letters to private companies inadvertently behindhand in making reports, paying fees, etc., because every such delinquent so stirred up by the company would doubtless increase the number of its patrons—a sufficient inducement for such company to "such delinquents."

As above stated, it is believed that it the field were fully covered in such matters by companies making a business of those things, the commission could save for other work more than the entire time of one clerk, and the saving to the State, if this work were efficiently done by companies making a business of it, would be saved to save the save saved to saved the panies making a business of it, would be in clerk hire and postage, &c., some \$2,000

per year.

Third.—It is in the interest of the State to Incorporate as many private corporations as possible (provided, of course, they be for proper purposes), because the State now obtains a substantial and continuous annual revenue from each company it incorporates. The efforts of such companies as we have been discussing to increase the number of their patrons by inducing prospective corporations to take out Virginia charters would thus redound directly to the pecuniary benefit, of the State.

For these and other reasons it will be seen that the work of such companies is not only entirely legitimate and unobjectionable, but is beneficial to the State, and particularly efficacious in expediting the work of the Corporation Commission. Under these circumstances that the chairman of the commission should encourage the formation of corporations to engage in this work would seem pot, only reasonable but commendable.

Subsequent events have proven that it was unwise for the chairman thus to encourage the Virginia Corporation Company, incorporated (which, was formed to conduct the business above described), by subscribing and paying cash for one share of his stock, as his action in so doing has been so crucily misunderstood by the public, but that his motive was other than a high and proper one, or his connection with the company as an inactive stock-bolder could have worked harm to the State, to the commission or to any outsider, no one familiar with the facts of

On June 19, 1003, the Corporation Trust Company of Virginia was incorporated by the commission, and on January 11, 1904, the Incorporating and Trust Corporation was in like manner incorporated. Both these companies were incorporated for the same purpose as the Virginia Corporation Company, incorporated, and it was

ration Company, incorporated, and it who hoped that as a result of the work these companies the commission would be relieved and the State benefited, as above explained.
For some cause, however, they wor

For some cause, however, they were apparently not actively pressed, possibly because the prospects of the business, as a profitable one, were not sufficiently bright, or possibly because their usefulness had not become sufficiently known to the private corporations generally in this State; and it was only after these first two companies did not appear to be active that the Virginia Corporation Company, Incorporated, was organized, and the chairman of the commission consented to subscribe for one share of stock in it. to subscribe for one share of stock in it. Should that company, by itself or together with other similar ones, effectually cover the whole field of attending to the charter applications and annual reports of pri-vate corporations, this State would, as above explained, materially profit in sev-

vate corporations, this State would, as above explained, materially profit in several ways.

Persons, firms or corporations engaged in business similar to that of the Virginia Corporation Company, Incorporated, exist in many States of the Union, and their work, for the reasons above stated, is generally encouraged, rather than otherwise, by the States. In the nature of things they cannot obtain a monopoly of the business, for any corporation can as freely transact its business directly with the commission as through the medium of these agencies; any person or firm in the State may engage in the same business—in fact, there is scarcely a lawyer in the State who does not occasionally, render similar services for private corporations which may other corporations exactly like the Virginia Corporations exactly like the Virginia Corporation Company, Incorporated, may be chartered as persons choose to organize and ask charters for, and every such person, firm or corporation could acquire exactly the same amount of information and be in a position to do the same work.

No Corporation Secrets.

The Corporation commission is possessed of no "corporation secrets" upon

No Corporation Secrets.

The Corporation Secrets is possessed of no "corporation secrets" upon which it could trade, even if it would. Its investigations of corporate matters are made, and the interest, solely, of publicity, and not for secrety. There is not a report of fact about a private corporation in the possession of the commission that is not equally accessible to every citizen of the Sinte. Nor has the commission any favors to grant in the matter of issuing or amending charters, even though it were disposed to do so, because the such as business occasionally with the commission, and neither lew nor propriety for these business occasionally with the commission, and neither lew nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither lew nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither lew nor propriety for a private corporation, such as the Commission manuel manuel in the services of the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither lew nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, and neither law nor propriety for the subsiness occasionally with the commission, the subsiness occasionally with the commission, the propriet

plainty obnoxious to several well founded objections:

1st. The chief benefit of such companies, so far as the State is concerned, is in saving work for the commission's clerical force, but, of course, this would be neutralized, if the work of the company because the the company is companied to the company to done but the company to done but the company along the company to the company the company that the co

call force, but, of course, this would be neutralized, if the work of the company be done by the commission's clerks.

2d. It is not well that any person whose entire time is engaged and paid for by one employer, should hire any part of his services to another, whether his duties to the first employer actually consume all his time or not.

2d. It would give a company, having commission clerks in its employ, an advantage over other companies in the same business, in the right of promptness in getting information of the daily transactions in the commission's office.

4th. It would likely be the duty of such a company to its patrons (just as of an ordinary attorney to his clents) to public out to such of them as had not already observed it, wherein, by reducing their nominal capital stock, or otherwise, they might make a saving in their annual does to his Steat; but as the State would

might make a saving in their annual dues to the State; but as the State would be a loser by this, it would hardly be appropriate that it should be brought about by one or more of her own em-

Not of Public Concern.

While these are surely material and sufficient objections to having commission clerks in the employ of such companies as the Virginia Corporation Company, Incorporated, no other valid objections now occur to me which can be urged thereto.

now occur to me which can be urged thereto.

With the personal controversy between the clerk and the first assistant clerk of the commission, and with any personal differences between the chairman and the first assistant clerk, the public has no concern. Those are either matters of office discipline or of a private nature between those gentlemen as individuals, which I shall not discuss, with which I have nothing to do, and in which I shall not permit myself to became involved.

shall not permit in section of the public, and my sole concern, so far as Judge Crump is involved, is with his services as chairman of the Corporation Commission. This composition is most important, and involved, is with his services as chairman of the Corporation Commission. This is probably the most important, and certainly the most difficult office in the State. Fror its incumbent are required the qualities of high integrity, fair-mindedness, great industry and peculiar learning in constitutional law. All these Judge Crump, in his public service, has shown himself possessed of in a high degree. There is scarcely a step to be taken by the commission in the matter of regulating public corporations that is not surrounded with the utmost legal difficulties and entanglements. The whole subject is new, and each decision of the commission, so far, has been like hewing a path into an untrod forest. Many of the ablest lawyers in the State have declared that suggested and desirable regulations of milroads were legally impossible; and, yet, such has been the learning, skill and tudgment of Judge Crump—the only professional lawyer on the commission—that he has repeatedly devised means of overcoming these legal obstacles and imposing the regulations, and in no single instance has his judgment in such matters been reversed. The value to the State of his services in these particulars is incalcular. ervices in these particulars is incalcula-

ble.

His success has not been the result of intuition, but of the most earnest and unremitting study and labor ever since he has been upon the commission. Without disparagement of any other official in the State, I believe it cannot be refuted that Judge Crump, as chairman of the Corporation Commission, has been one of the very hardest worked public officers in Virginia. The loss of such a man, who is so earnest and faithful, who has now become familiar with the important and intricate labors of the office, and learned so well the path through the legal labyrinth which surrounds government regulation of rallroads, would be well nigh irreparable, and no less than a public misfortune. That the public has shown itself so jealous of the integrity and good name of the Corporation Commission is certainly a most gratifying and wholesome sign; but, because of a trivial error of judgment on his part, involving only an act which, at most, was a harmless indiscretion, in a well intended effort to advance the public interests, let us not, in our excess of zeal, puss sentence of condemnation upon an honorable, conscientious, faithful and most efficient public servant, who, with his two colleagues of similar character, is engaged in the most beneficial public service this State has received for many a year.

The sole question for the public is, has Judge Crump, as the presiding officer of one of the highest and most important tribunals of the State, done anything which should forfelt for him the respect

which should forfelt for him the respect and confidence of the people? To this question, my own answer is, emphatically, that he has not.

I think I may reasonably claim that no one could be more deeply interested in the fair name and success of the Virginia Corporation Commission than I: and, to all the friends of that great institution, I wish to say that, in my opinion, its integrity will never be in better or safer hands than it is to-day. hetter or safer.

Respectfully,
A. C. BRAXTON.

V. P. I. GERMAN.

Commencement Exercises Opened With Brilliant Dance.

With Brilliant Dance.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BLACKSBURG, VA., June 10.—The commencement exercises of Virginia Polytechnic Institute opened Friday night with a brilliant german, given the seniors by the juniors' class. The big dance hall, 120 by 00 feet, was decorated in evergreens and the college colors. Music was furnished by the Academy orchestra of Reanoke, and dancing kept up until 4 o'clock. At 12:30 o'clock an elegant banquet was served, covers being laid for 275. Forty-nine couples and about twenty-five tags participated in the dance, Mr. T. D. Hobart leading with Miss Nance, of Mississippi.

The engagement cards were hand printed and bore the college emongram in gilt. The affair was under the management of Cadet T. De'La Cova, a wealthy Cuben, and was beautifully carried out. At 9 o'clock the Sophomore banquet was held with covers for ninety. The invited guests were Prof. Vawter, Dr. Nelson and Dr. Williams, the first two of whom made pleasant informal talks. A delightful menu and who best of good fellowship made the banquet a great success.

Dr. Wilson said that afteen years ago the Sophomore class numbered fifteen, to-day it numbers 120.

To-night the celebration of the Maury Literary Society took place, followed by a hop.

These denoing the Friday night german.

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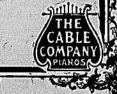
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A NOBLE ANIMAL

Sir.—Assuming that a large class of your readers appreciate as I do the affection and fine qualities of a good dog. I clip and send you from "The Ram's Horn" of June 3d, the most beautiful and remarkable dog story that I have over read, or known by hearing. Those of your readers who otherwise would have missed seeing it, will, I am sure, appreciate the kindness of its appearance in your columns. Apart from 'its sentimental power that stirs our tenderest and noblest emotions, it is a valuable contribution to that literature covering a line that a generation ago was regarded as being most clear and distinct, the line between reason and instinct. That line indeed more and more, until we now can scarcely get even an occadional glimpse of it, and its obliteration is only a question of time. If the statements.

May a question of time is indeed a viluable contribution to this class of literature as illustrative if not demonstratives and the property of the company gave him a handsome, silver-mounted collar, bearing the inscriptions of the paper is indeed a viluable contribution to the class of literature as illustrative if not demonstrative attements.

May DOG OF HEROG DEEDS.

A DOG OF HEROG DEEDS.

A DOG OF HEROG DEEDS.

There was a Scotch collen named "Boy," the story of whose life is one of wonderful devotion and heroic deeds. However, the line of each of the was struck and killed while question and heroic deeds. However, the line of the company gave him a handsome, silver-mounted collar, bearing the inscription. The property of Frank Barber, of Hornington, West Virginia, and he saved the lives of many children. "Boy" is now dead, for he was struck and killed while questions and heroic deeds. However, and the property of the company gave him a handsome, silver mounted collar, bearing the inscription of a Chesapeake and Ohlo passenger of the struck the children when he died. The listory of "Boy" is the story of a Chesapeake and Ohlo passenger of the struck the children when he died to apprehend her danger and would Sir.—Assuming that a large class of your readers appreciate as I do the affection and fine qualities of a good dog, I clip and send you from "The Ram's Horn" of June 3d, the most beautiful and remarkable dog story that I have ever read, or known by hearing. Those of your readers who otherwise would have missed seeing it, will, I am sure, appreciate the kineness of its appearance in your columns. Apart from its sentimental power that sirs our tenderest and noblest emotions, it is a valuable contribution to that literature covering a line that a generation ago was regarded as being most clear and distinct. That lina faded more and more until we now can scarcely get even an occasional glimpse of it, and its obliteration is only a question of time. If the statements concerning this dog stand as matters of fact, the paper is indeed a vuluable contribution to this class of literature as illustrative if not demonstrative material. And now is the time to easily verify or disprove, or to qualify these statements.

Elba, Va., June 7, 1905.

A DOG OF HERGIC DEEDS.

these statements.

J. R. STURGIS.

Biba, Va., June 7, 1905.

A DOG OF HEROIC DEEDS.
There was a Scotch collie named "Boy," the story of whose life is one of wonderful devotion and heroic deaf was the property of Frank Barber, of Huntington, West Virginia, and he saved the lives of many children. "Boy" is new dead, for he was struck and Rilled while pushing little Louise Brown from in front of a Chesapeake and Ohio passanger train.

The history of "Boy" is the story of a The history of "Boy" is new the property of Frank Barber, a little, curly-haired, froilbone puppy. He grew to be a nuistange as we have and was given to a farmer living many miles back in Ohio. If a chesapeake and Ohio has and was given to a farmer living many miles back in Ohio. If a little the story of the track into the snow-but sate. The first night in his new home he was the little know home he was the many miles back in Ohio. If a little the snow home he was the little know the house and was given to a small kennel in the yard, chained to a small kennel in the yard, and kennel were missing. "Boy" was huried with every honor that could be given him, and the children for head of the further day with "Boy" were at the and turned up at his old home with the and turned up at his old home with the and turned up at his old home with the and turned up at his old home with the and turned up at his old home with the and turned up at his old home with the snow public and turned up at his old home with the four little keept to be an at the sold home with the four little keept to be an at the sold home with the four little keept to be an at the sold home with the four little keept to be an at the sold home with the four little keept to be an at the sold home with the four little pour is ported in the successful on begin to find the rule for the extreme. One morning last fall as No. 19 heart of Elizate and two he beat fall as No. 19 heart with he he falter of the snow hull her father at an unusually and the father at an unusually and the snow he had ano

and turned up at his old home with the little kennel tled fast to him, but sulitie kennel tled fast to him, but sulities and the sulities and the sulities and the sulities and the sulities and sulfies and sul

W. T. Brooms and C. C. Jones.

LETTER TO H. C. BRANER,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir: Porterhouse, so much; neck,
so much; all the way between.

Just so with paint, Dovoe lead-andgine is the porterhouse. Nobody wants
the neck; the between, some say, is good
snough for them.

But Devoe costs less, not more, than
between. Lead-and-oil is between; it
is the old-tashion paint. But zinc has
come in. Zinc toughens white lead. Devoo lead-and-zinc is the paint that wears
twice as long as lead-and-oil.

Mr John N Deltel, Fair Haven, N Y,
writes:

Mr John N Deltel, Fair Haven, N Y, writes:

"Mr Charles Hollenback, of this place, painted his house three years are with Dovee lead-and-sinc; his father painted at the same time with lead-and-oil, Today the son's house looks as well as the day it was painted, while the father's house has all chalked off and needs painting very badly. The father says he will paint with Devoe next time."

Yours truly

M F W DEVOE & CO Harris Hardware Co, sell our paint.